Health Equity Concerns

Tobacco
There are identified populations and communities in Washington State that experience higher levels of tobacco use and higher rates of tobacco-related disease and death. Additionally, some communities are at higher risk due to targeted marketing by the tobacco industry and higher density of tobacco retailers. A narrative and visual summary of these disparities can be found in the Health Equity section of the State Tobacco and Vapor Product Strategic Plan.

Populations of focus for tobacco prevention include, but are not limited to:

Lower income households

One in four adults (23 percent) with an annual household income less than $35,000 smoke cigarettes, while only about one in 12 adults (8 percent) in households making $75,000 or more smoke. Lower income households also have a higher prevalence of secondhand smoke exposure, may have less access to resources to help them quit, and may have more tobacco marketing in their neighborhood than higher income households.

American Indian/Alaska Native, Pacific Islanders,

American Indians, Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders, have a higher prevalence of smoking than other Washington residents. These populations also have higher rates of exposure to secondhand smoke, may have less access to resources, and experience more targeted marketing by the tobacco industry.

Sexual Orientation

People who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual have higher rates of cigarette smoking than heterosexual individuals and higher rates of exposure to secondhand smoke, and may experience targeted marketing by the tobacco industry.

Youth

Prevalence of smoking among youth in Washington State has decreased but higher prevalence of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke exists among students who:

- Have lower grades (C’s, D’s, and F’s), versus students with higher grades (A’s and B’s)
Health Equity Concerns

- Have experienced harassment (in general or because of their perceived sexual orientation) versus students who have not experienced harassment
- Speak Russian or Ukrainian at home, versus students who speak English at home

Data sources may be found under [Key Data and Sources, Tobacco](#)